

say full funding is what we've got in this bill. There is going to have to bill some belt-tightening, and it isn't going to hurt a darn thing. There is going to have to be some reassessment priorities and that's not going to hurt anything. There is going to have to be some facing up to realities and that is not going to hurt anything. When we all do that we're all going to be better for it. I want to say one thing because I'm not going to speak very many more times on this bill, I hope. All the members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment signed the bill for introduction, even Senator Burrows who had some concern about it because he recognized that there was a problem. We've come a long way. Senator Burrows has some legitimate concerns in this area, but some of those concerns are rightfully the concern of county government. We have a right to expect county government to be just as frugal, to be just as conservative, to be just as efficient as a citizen has to expect this Legislature. Therefore, I think they will respond. I think they will meet the mandate of the people, and they will meet the needs of those people, but they will do so in a manner which should not raise real estate taxes. I want to say in closing, if real estate taxes are raised then I defy the county that raises them to prove to me that it was because of LB 518. They can only do so if they are assessed at 35 percent of actual value. I haven't found very many that have been. I oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair would like to take this opportunity to introduce, in the South balcony, some 22 seventh and eighth graders and one teacher and seven mothers from the Milligan Public School District, from Senator Maresch's district. Would they please stand and be recognized, up in the South balcony. Welcome to the Legislature. Also in the South balcony, from Senator Bereuter's district, are 12 Spirit of 76 Extension Club members from Gresham, Nebraska. Would they stand and be recognized. Welcome to the Legislature. Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I rise to support Senator Burrows amendment. I found Senator Schmit's discussion rather fascinating. He could become, I think, a riverboat gambler, or something, the way he moved the figures around, trying to shift the white hats under the black hats and so on. Suddenly county government is the big spending government in the state, and it is the state that is the fiscal conservatives. I've never seen, in this Legislature, anymore prudent, fiscally, people than those who came from county boards. The county commissioners that come to serve in the Legislature are hardly what one would call the big spenders in this Legislature. Yet now Senator Schmit is saying that county government is way out of line, that it's outrageously spending money, and that they should follow the example of the state. Yet here he is with a \$70 million bill, and he's blaming county government. I think that county government is probably one of the most prudent, fiscally, of any government and that is because of the mill levy limitations they have in the Constitution. I don't think there is much room in the Lancaster County budget, nor in any other county budget to find this \$30 million that I'm convinced they're going to have to pick up someplace. Senator DeCamp is kind of taking a different tact. He's indicating that probably it will have to be picked up, and kind of saying well, maybe we can pick it up here, but let's wait a few years because this isn't part of the bargain. Senator Schmit then is saying we don't have to pick it up at all. They're just